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3 June 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY



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State Dept., NAVY reviews completed

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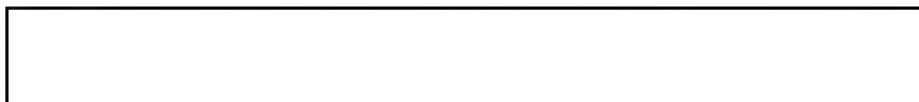
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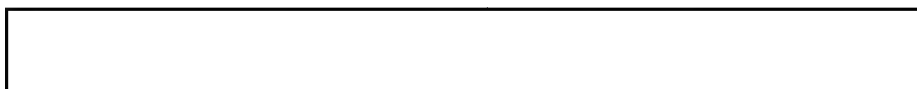
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DAILY BRIEF

Belgium-Congo: The Belgian Government believes that the political situation in the Congo is as bad as the military situation, if not worse.

A senior Foreign Ministry official has pointed to the Kivu situation as indicative of the disaffection and hostility that is spreading in the Congo as a result of the Adoula government's total ineptitude. The official also believes that, even if Leopoldville succeeds in putting down the current unrest, the whole structure could be swept away in a second wave of revolts in the next few weeks if parallel steps are not taken to bolster the regime's political authority.

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Last week end, responding to Tshombé's initiative, Foreign Minister Spaak's chief aide went to meet Tshombé in Madrid. Spaak stated that the purpose of the visit was to learn Tshombé's political intentions. [Tshombé, in the past, was reported to have suggested a "national reconciliation" government, headed by himself, but which would also include representatives of the present regime and such other elements as the CNL.]

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Algeria: {President Ben Bella's increasing espousal of pro-Soviet policies may precipitate an open power struggle with opposition elements.}

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US Ambassador Porter has noted a distinct change in Ben Bella's attitude on foreign affairs since his return from Moscow on 17 May. He has gained the impression that Ben Bella's relationship with the Soviet Union probably goes beyond what the Algerian leader has admitted.

In an interview with Porter last week, Ben Bella was evasive on most points, but did not deny that the communiqué he signed in Moscow accepted the Soviet point of view on many international questions. He stated flatly that Algeria is closer to the USSR than to the US on Cuba and Vietnam.

Although Ben Bella's opponents generally are still badly divided, he is showing signs of growing nervousness over chronic dissidence in the Kabylie Mountain east of Algiers. Last week he apparently reinforced army units in the area. Substantial casualties have already been reported, although there appear to have been no major engagements in the past few days. Ben Bella has publicly boasted that the dissident leader, Hocine Ait Ahmed, will soon be captured.

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DAILY BRIEF

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*Laos: The military situation remains quiet in the Plaine des Jarres area.

In other areas, rightist troops are meeting with little resistance as they press their clearing operations against Pathet Lao units along the Nam Lik River west of Vang Vieng. North of Paksane, right-wing forces are moving slowly toward Tha Thom, and as of 1 June were reported within 10 miles of that village.

Meanwhile, there are further indications that the Communists are preparing to activate a separatist government.

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Souvanna, apparently convinced that further dealings with the Pathet Lao would be fruitless unless preceded by "big power" agreement, has indicated he would not oppose the pull-out of the remaining Pathet Lao cabinet members from Vientiane. He also is willing to meet with Pathet Lao chief Souphannouvong, but believes that little could be accomplished by such talks at the present time.

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DAILY BRIEF

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NOTES

Indonesia-Malaysia: The Thai cabinet has agreed that Thailand will verify the withdrawal of Indonesian guerrillas from Malaysian Borneo as a preliminary to a "summit" meeting of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. The meeting, now tentatively scheduled for mid-June in Tokyo, may be postponed again, however, as a result of recent Indonesian statements indicating that Djakarta has not, in fact, accepted the conditions set by Malaysia for holding the talks. [A six-week lull in guerrilla activity throughout Malaysia has been interrupted only by one recent clash in Sarawak and three minor bombings in Singapore.]

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USSR: A Soviet signal intelligence collection ship has appeared in Southeast Asian waters for the first time. The Protractor was sighted on 1 June west of the Philippines where a SEATO amphibious exercise is being conducted. The vessel is probably monitoring communications from that exercise.

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